



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1998

No. 78

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 16, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable GEORGE P. RADANOVICH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that States should work more aggressively to attack the problem of violent crimes committed by repeat offenders and criminals serving abbreviated sentences.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1853. An act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act.

H. Con. Res. 284. Concurrent resolution revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1998, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1999, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 629) "An Act to grant the

consent of the Congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact," disagreed to by the House and agree to the conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. THURMOND, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. LEAHY to be the conferees on the part of the Senate, with instructions.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1853) "An Act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act," and requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COATS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. REED to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 284) "A concurrent resolution revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1998, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1999 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003," and requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GREGG, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. SMITH or Oregon, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. DURBIN to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

BRINGING OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, an important step was taken last week in our efforts to assure that America's schools and libraries share in the full power of the Internet. The Federal Communications Commission made its E-rate decision on Friday June 12. To their great credit the commissioners withstood tremendous pressure to end the program and decided to continue funding the discounted rate, the E-rate, but at a reduced level from what was anticipated. The new funding level is an almost 50 percent reduction from what schools and libraries anticipated and planned for based on what the Congress had previously decided.

Organizations from around the country are understandably disappointed. Thirty thousand schools and libraries took Congress at its word and submitted significant effort through their applications to the FCC. But in fairness I think the FCC did the best it could with this difficult situation.

There are several reasons why the political climate has become so charged. Yes, there is considerable confusion, but the solution is clearly not to end or put a hold on the program. We must

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H4569